

Appln. No. 10/089,558
Amndt. dated March 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for molding plastic articles having pigments used to modify light reflectivity comprising:

a mold having a first mold section (12) and a second mold section (14) with a mold cavity (16) disposed between the first and the second mold sections (12, 14);

a first gate design for providing a first plastic material to the mold cavity (16) provided by at least one first gate design mold member (40);

a second gate design for providing a second plastic material to the said mold cavity (16) provided by at least one second gate design mold member;

the first and second gate design mold members removably attachable to at least one of the first or the second mold sections (12, 14);

the first and second gate design mold members interchangeable on at least one of the first or the second mold sections (12, 14) to change from the first gate design to the second gate design.

2. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the mold comprises an injection mold.

3. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first gate design comprises an edge gate.

4. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the second gate design comprises an edge gate.

5. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first or second mold sections contains a recess and said first or second gate design mold member is insertable in said recess.

6. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section by threaded fasteners.

7. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the second gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section by threaded fasteners.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members-(41, 42).

9. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the second gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members.

10. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first plastic material comprises a thermoplastic polymer.

11. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 10 wherein the first plastic material further comprises a pigment.

12. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 11 wherein the pigment further comprises a light-reflective pigment.

13. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 11 wherein the pigment further comprises a metallic pigment.

14. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the second plastic material comprises a thermoplastic polymer.

15. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 14 wherein the second plastic material further comprises a pigment.

16. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 15 wherein the pigment further comprises a light-reflective pigment.

17. (Original) The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 15 wherein the pigment further comprises a metallic pigment.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for molding plastic articles having pigments used to modify light reflectivity, the method comprising:

providing a mold having a first mold section-(12) and a second mold section-(14) with a mold cavity-(16) disposed between the first and the second mold sections-(12, 14);

providing a first gate design;

forming a product in the mold cavity-(16) by providing a first plastic material through the first gate design;

separating the first mold section-(12) and the second mold section-(14);

removing the product from the mold cavity-(16);

changing from the first gate design to a second gate design;

forming a product in the mold cavity-(16) by providing a second plastic material through the second gate design.

19. (Original) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the mold comprises an injection mold.

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20. (Original) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the first gate design comprises an edge gate.

21. (Original) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the second gate design comprises an edge gate.

22. (Currently amended) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 22
18 wherein:

the first gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members; and
the second gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members.

23. (Original) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 22 wherein at least one of said first or second mold section contains a recess and said first or second gate design is insertable in said recess.

24. (Original) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the first gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section by threaded fasteners.

25. (Original) The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the second gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section by threaded fasteners.